

Appl. No. 09/628,629
Amendment dated June 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2006

Remarks

Claims 1, 3 - 20, 22 - 35 and 37 - 49 remain in the application for consideration. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments made in the claims and the remarks appearing below herein.

1. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 7 - 10, 13 - 19, 26 - 34 and 41 - 49.

2. Claims 1, 12, 20 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,834,134 ("Avinash et al. ").

This rejection has been overcome by the amendments made in the claims. Claims 1, 20 and 35 have been amended by incorporating therein, respectively, the subject matter recited in claims 2, 21 and 36, (each of which has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s)).

Claim 12 is dependent upon claim 1 and therefore is also now patentable over the disclosure of Avinash et al.

Reconsideration of this ground of rejection and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

3. Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avinash et al.

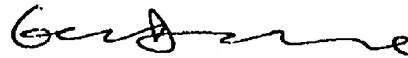
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Claim 11 is dependent upon claim 1 and therefore is also now patentable over the disclosure of Avinash et al. for the same reasons discussed above.

4. Claims 2 (now canceled)- 6, 21 (now canceled)- 25 and 36 - 40 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). These claims are all dependent upon at least one of the rejected claims discussed above. Since it has been shown that the rejected claims are patentable over the cited reference, claims 3 - 6, 22 - 25 and 36 - 40 are patentable in their present form.

In summary it has been shown that the claims remaining in the application are proper in form for allowance and in substance are directed to subject matter which is wholly novel and unobvious over the references of record. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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